

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /077 W

----- 122621

R 291510Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 528

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL PFOR

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF ISTVAN DEAK - IREX GRANTEE

1. EMBOFF CALLED TO MFA YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND INFORMED THAT ENTRY PERMIT OF IREX GRANTEE ISTVAN DEAK REVOKED MORNING 28 NOV. DEAK GIVEN 72 HOURS TO LEAVE HUNGARY BECAUSE OF "INFORMATION THAT RECENTLY CAME TO GOH'S ATTENTION". HE WAS ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES "DETRIMENTAL TO INTERESTS OF GOH" AND OF VIOLATING HUNGARIAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS DURING STAY HERE (FROM SEPT 1, 1973).

2. DEAK ACCUSED SPECIFICALLY OF ARRANGING (BEFORE HE CAME HERE) FOR EXHIBIT AND SALE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OF HUNGARIAN ART WORKS ILLEGALLY EXPORTED FROM HUNGARY. HE WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH HAVING SOLICITED INFORMATION "DETRIMENTAL TO GOH" FROM HUNGARIAN STUDENTS RESIDENT IN US. MFA WOULD NOT SPECIFY WHAT OTHER "ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES" IN WHICH DEAK INVOLVED OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT FOR MANY YEARS DEAK HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY RFE IN ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST HUNGARY. MFA OFFICIAL STATED GOH "VERY DIS-APPOINTED THAT DEAK HAD NOT CHANGED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT."

3. MFA SOURCE CLAIMED THAT DUE TO "PRESENT STATE OF US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS," DEAK WAS NOT JAILED. ALSO SAID THAT

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GOH HAD "NO INTENTION OF CONNECTING CASE WITH USG OR

EMBASSY, THEREFORE MATTER HANDLED WITH DISCRETION" AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED WITH DEAK'S DEPARTURE.

4. MFA OFFICIAL REQUESTED THAT US INSTITUTIONS NOT SEND AS GREANTEES "PEOPLE WHO LEFT HUNGARY ILLEGALLY AFTER WORLD WAR 11." POINTED TO DEAK AS ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ABOVE CATEGORY OF INDIVIDUALS ARE SENT UNDER EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

5. AT OUR REQUEST DEAK CALLED AT EMBASSY THIS MORNING AND VERIFIED THAT HE WAS BEING EXPELLED BUT SAID HE WAS ONLY GIVEN THROUGH NOV. 29 TO LEAVE COUNTRY. HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN REASON FOR GOH ACTION. CONFIRMED HIS PARTICIPATION IN 1972 ART EXHIBIT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING SALE OF COUPLE OF PAINTINGS TO FINANCE THE SHOW, AND SAID HE AND WIFE OFTEN HAD HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS STAY WITH THEM IN U.S. A WEEK AGO DEAK HAD MET AT A DINNER A HUNGARIAN WRITER BRIEFLY JAILED IN MAY AS MEMBER OF GROUP LED BY MIKLOS HARASZTI. WRITER HAD ASKED HIM TO TELEPHONE HIM LATER BUT HE DID NOT DO SO. HE SAID HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, SOME OF WHOM ARE OPEN IN EXPRESSING DISENCHANTMENT WITH GOH.

6. GOH'S MOTIVES FOR EXPELLING DEAK NOT CLEAR TO EMBASSY, BUT THOSE CITED TO US ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT EXPULSION ON SHORT NOTICE WHEN HIS PERIOD HERE WAS TO HAVE ENDED IN JANUARY. HIS CONTACT WITH MEMBER OF A GROUP ASSOCIATED IDEOLOGICALLY WITH HEGADUS GROUP PROBABLY WAS THE CAUSE. IN LIGHT THEIR REFUSAL TO ADMIT OTHER U.S. PROFESSORS KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT HUNGARY THIS YEAR, THEY MAY ALSO BE CONCERNED MORE GENERALLY ABOUT ANY WIDESPREAD CONTACTS IN HUNGARY.

7. DEAK IS PROFESSOR OF MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY AND CAME HERE WITH THAT AS HIS SUBJECT, ESPECIALLY RESEARCH ON KOSSUTH. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN HUNGARY BOTH IN 1971 AND 1972 AND IN PREVIOUS YEARS SINCE 1968 PEDERSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRIMES, SMUGGLING, ARTS, EDUCATION GRANTS, ENTRY VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinjw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUDAPE03818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973116/aaaaaect.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSION OF ISTVAN DEAK - IREX GRANTEE
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, (DEAK, ISTVAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005